NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Statement of Mandate 2011-2012

Report DNR 2011-2
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1 Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, I am pleased to present our Statement of Mandate for the 2011-12 fiscal year. I encourage you to take the time to read through this document to learn more about our plans for the year.

Working towards the approval and implementation of the natural resources strategy will be a significant part of the department's work this year. The strategy is a commitment of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* and Nova Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan. It is part of jobsHere: the plan to grow our economy and also has links to several other government strategies. The new strategy will guide the management of natural resources in our province for the next decade or more.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of Nova Scotians who contributed to the development of strategy. This includes the volunteers who gave their time and expertise to serve on panels during the citizen engagement and the stakeholder engagement phases; the staff in my department who used the values identified in phase 1 and the recommendations made in phase 2 to prepare a strategy that is guided by these value and recommendations; and the many citizens, stakeholders and partners who provided their opinions and expertise.

Achieving long-term economic gains while ensuring a healthy natural environment for current Nova Scotians and future generations will not be easy. But by working collaboratively with our partners, we can find innovative solutions that will balance the economic, environmental, and social impacts of resource development, conservation, and use.

I look forward to the challenging yet exciting times that lie ahead as we work together to put in place a new approach for managing our natural resources; one that will lead to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

Charlie Parker

Honourable Charlie Parker
Minister, Natural Resources

2 Message From The Deputy Minister

As Deputy Minister of the Department of Natural Resources, I am pleased to share with you the department's Statement of Mandate for 2011-12.

As the process to develop a natural resources strategy unfolded, we saw the deep and passionate views Nova Scotians hold on the province's natural resources. Nova Scotians have made their expectations for how natural resources should be managed in this province clear through the citizen and stakeholder engagement phases of the natural resources strategy process. As the phase 2 steering panel report stated; the status quo is not an option. The department and government have received the message and are committed to change.

When finalized, the natural resources strategy will describe a new approach for the management of natural resources in Nova Scotia. The strategy will commit the department to change. The management of the province's biodiversity, forests, geological resources, and provincial parks will be undertaken in a more transparent, integrated and collaborative manner. Communities, educational institutions, industry, non-profit organizations, other government departments, and other levels of government will all have a role to play in natural resource management planning and decision making over the next decade.

Once the strategy has been approved, the next step will be the development of a plan to implement the strategy. This plan will set out the detailed actions needed at an operational level to accomplish the broad directional change and bring about the outcomes laid out in the strategy. Sustainability, shared stewardship of our natural resources, and mutual accountability will be the department's guiding principles as we move forward with strategy implementation.

I am proud of the work and the ideas that have gone into the preparation of the new natural resources strategy to date. I am pleased to be able to be part of what will be exciting times ahead, as the strategy is implemented and as we improve how we manage our province's natural resources.

Mr. Duff Montgomerie
Deputy Minister, Natural Resources

3 Department Vision / Mission / Mandate

The department's vision, in 2020 and beyond, is a province rich in natural resources - including biodiversity, forests, geological resources, and provincial parks, with all stakeholders working together to manage these resources wisely and with all Nova Scotians benefitting from the natural health and wealth of the province.

The department's current mission, which will be reviewed, is "to build a better future for Nova Scotians through responsible natural resources management."

The department has broad responsibilities relative to the management of Nova Scotia's biodiversity, forest, geological, and park resources and the administration of the province's Crown land (where management includes the development, conservation and protection of these resources). The department has responsibility for aspects of the management of natural resources on both Crown land and on private land.

Biodiversity and wildlife related responsibilities include promoting and implementing policies and programs to support the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife populations, habitats and ecosystems in Nova Scotia; inventorying and monitoring wildlife populations and habitats; conducting research to better manage wildlife and their habitats; developing protection and recovery programs for threatened and endangered species and their habitats; undertaking biodiversity initiatives; protecting areas of important wildlife habitats or populations; promoting conservation and the sustainable and ethical use of wildlife through education programs and viewing opportunities at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park; and promoting habitat and species conservation on private lands.

Forests related responsibilities, on both Crown and private lands, include forest management planning and research; developing and implementing strategies that support and contribute to sustainable forests; maintaining the provincial forest inventory; producing data on the province's forest resources; monitoring primary forest production; coordinating extension programs and support for forestry sector development; and delivering programs to protect our forests from fires, pests and diseases.

Geological resources related responsibilities include implementing policies and programs that help to ensure the best use of the province's mineral, groundwater and geoheritage resources; collecting and managing geoscientific information; monitoring compliance with regulatory requirements; administering the mineral rights tenure system and mineral royalties; and promoting an understanding of the risks geological hazards pose to Nova Scotians.

Park related responsibilities include planning, designing, developing and operating a comprehensive system of over 120 camping and day-use parks and natural area parks and park reserves, in addition to supporting facilities on Crown lands, various trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities. The provincial parks system preserves unique and scenic landscapes, and cultural and heritage resources; and provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, an appreciation and awareness of our natural and cultural land base, community economic development and amenities for the traveling public. The department is also responsible for approximately 1,200 kilometres of abandoned rail corridor, and for beaches designated under the *Beaches Act*.

Stewardship and outreach activities are undertaken to provide accurate natural resources related information to Nova Scotians to help them make informed decisions and choices with respect to the conservation and use of natural resources.

More than one quarter of the province's land base is administered and controlled as provincial Crown land and protected areas. In addition to managing Crown land, the department administers inland submerged land and submerged lands along the province's coastline. Crown land related responsibilities include enforcement of laws and policies, management and development of resources on Crown land; protection and conservation of Crown land through designations and agreements; and maintenance of Crown boundaries.

The Crown land responsibilities related to the management and development of resources include administering Crown land licenses for timber and other resources; investing in silviculture on Crown land in order to work towards forest sustainability; and maintaining a network of access roads on Crown lands.

The administration of Crown land also encompasses responsibility for the acquisition, leasing and disposal of interests in Crown lands; clarification of interests in Crown lands; registration of Crown land titles; control and management of Crown lands records; and development and maintenance of the Crown lands cadastral database.

Responsibility for administration of Crown land also involves establishing and maintaining Crown boundaries and monitoring land surveying activities on Crown land. The surveys program oversees and delivers Crown land surveying projects on about 21,400 kilometres of boundaries related to approximately 1.3 million hectares of Crown land in the province.

In addition to administration of Crown land, the department provides a number of land administration services to Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. The department also works with NSE to develop partnership agreements with land trusts and community groups for conservation and land stewardship purposes.

Trail and off-highway vehicles (OHV) related responsibilities include overseeing Crown land trails; creating trail development policy; establishing trails networks; and managing trail issues. OHV related responsibilities include establishing and monitoring safety and training standards and requirements; and monitoring and addressing issues and conflicts as they arise.

Enforcement related responsibilities include achieving compliance with all Acts administered by the department; and promoting a better understanding of resource and Crown land protection issues and concerns. Activities include directing the development, coordination, implementation, and delivery of a departmental resources law enforcement and compliance program.

4 Department Initiatives Supporting Government Priorities

Government has identified three core priorities to guide and focus government's actions. The three core priorities are:

1. Make health care better for you and your family
2. Create good jobs and grow the economy
3. Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means

The first core priority relates to directly providing health care, promoting healthy lifestyles, and achieving enhanced population health outcomes. This includes initiatives to improve the social and economic determinants of health in the province through education and training, providing supports for families and children, and developing safe and peaceful communities. Also falling under this priority is work undertaken by government to help Nova Scotians to more fully participate in, and contribute to, both vibrant communities and a prosperous and environmentally healthy province.

The second core priority relates to supporting economic development and, more specifically, the jobsHere strategy. The well-being of all Nova Scotians is directly or indirectly tied to the state of the provincial economy. Work undertaken by government will align with and contribute to the jobsHere plan and related objectives for workforce development, renewable energy and environmental sustainability. Initiatives should also support efforts to help Nova Scotian citizens, communities, voluntary sector organizations and business enterprises participate more effectively in growing Nova Scotia's economy.

The third core priority, get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means, relates to the need to examine the work that government does and to align policies and deliver programs in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Program analysis needs to be undertaken on an ongoing basis to ensure programs are sustainable, essential and

relevant to the real needs of stakeholders. Government must explore, on a continuing basis, new and innovative ways to do business and deliver services in pursuit of greater efficiency and improved program outcomes. This includes initiatives to streamline or transform service delivery, improve productivity or share services with other government departments or entities.

The following section and table illustrates the linkage between each of the department's key initiatives and government's corporate priorities. It should also be noted that many of the department's ongoing, operational activities directly support corporate priorities, especially in the "create good jobs and grow the economy" priority. Most department activities relate to sustainable natural resources management. Our resources generate significant economic activity and provide valuable social, cultural, recreational and environmental benefits to residents and to visitors to the province.

The current key initiatives and activities of the department are directly or indirectly linked to at least one of government's core priorities:

1. Make health care better for you and your family - The department is strengthening its education and outreach activities to help Nova Scotians to be stronger participants and contributors to vibrant communities . We are also working through our programs to conserve and manage our natural resources to build an environmentally healthy province and to encourage Nova Scotians to enjoy and use provincial parks and Crown lands for outdoor activities which support healthy lifestyles.

2. Create good jobs and grow the economy - The department helps to grow the economy and create good jobs by managing and developing the province's natural resources, including geological resources, forests and Crown land assets. Resource development creates good paying jobs in rural Nova Scotia. The department is actively working to increase the revenue it generates from the Crown land base through agricultural, energy, and other economic activities.

3. Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means - The implementation of the natural resources strategy requires the department to reinvent itself in order to meet new challenges. This means streamlining program delivery, improving electronic data management and providing better decision making tools through a variety of initiatives.

Government's Core Priorities			
D N R Initiative	**Make Health Care Better For You and Your Family**	**Create Good Jobs and Grow the Economy**	**Back to Balance and Living Within Our Means**
Natural Resources Strategy	• provide environmental and social benefits through sustainable natural resources management • provide opportunities for outdoor recreation in parks and on Crown land that support healthy lifestyles	• develop geological resources sustainably • increase value of wood products • support economic development while addressing environmental and social concerns	• deliver programs and services on a sustainable basis • streamline departmental program delivery • improve electronic data management • develop better decision support tools
Forest Sustainability	• provide valuable environmental services from sustainable forests	• create and maintain good forestry jobs and a viable forestry industry from sustainable forests	• generate revenue for government from sustainable forests
EGSPA Land Protection	• provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyles • protect natural heritage • support communities	• provide opportunities for jobs that take advantage of the natural areas • provide more clarity in what land will be available for resource development	• promote efficiencies with a joint management and review process
Park Infrastructure Renewal	• promote outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyles • provide environmental, cultural and heritage benefits	• support economic activity in local communities	• fund park infrastructure improvements
Land Asset Management		• support increased economic activity	• improve decision making • improve service delivery • generate more revenue from Crown land and resources
Community Land Trusts / *Community Easements Act*	• support communities by providing community input in the land purchase process		
Human / Wildlife Conflicts (Coyote Aggression Reduction)	• support the safe pursuit of outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, hunting and nature appreciation		

Details on some of the most significant departmental initiatives planned for the year are provided below.

4.1 Natural Resources Strategy

On May 1, 2007 government announced a three-year, three phase process to develop a new strategy covering the province's natural resources (biodiversity, forests, minerals, and parks). The first phase, from January 2008 to May 2009, was led by Voluntary Planning. This phase included comprehensive and inclusive public engagement, with more than 2,000 participants and 600 written submissions. The report produced from this phase identified five broad public values - sustainability, diversity, collaboration, transparency, and informed decision-making - that guided government through the strategy development process and will guide policy and program decisions as the strategy is implemented.

The second phase, from May 2009 to May 2010, was led by an external steering panel comprised of prominent Nova Scotians who were appointed by the Minister of Natural Resources. Under the auspices of the steering panel, panels of expertise (i.e. experts in the four key focus areas of biodiversity, forests, minerals, and parks) tapped into the province's diverse technical expertise in these areas. The phase 2 report provided DNR with recommendations under six high level strategic priority areas - leadership readiness; citizen and stakeholder engagement; legislative renewal and compliance improvement; research capacity and knowledge sharing; education; collaboration, co-ordination, and co-operation; and 26 recommendations in the areas of biodiversity, forests, geological resources, and parks.

The strategy for Nova Scotia's natural resources will help guide the department's work in the areas of biodiversity, forests, geological resources, and parks for the next ten years and longer. It will set a clear vision of where we want to be in the future so that our natural resources are sustained for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of Nova Scotians. The strategy will help to accelerate economic growth across Nova Scotia and secure higher value jobs in the natural resources sectors in the future. It will focus on innovation, helping resource based businesses develop a competitive advantage, and capitalizing on the province's natural assets. With a strong emphasis on working collaboratively, the strategy will also provide a model and opportunity for government departments to realize significant cost savings and efficiencies through coordinated and cooperative opportunities and outcomes.

Planned activities for 2011-12 will be identified when the strategy is approved and released.

4.2 Forest Sustainability

As part of the process to develop a new natural resources strategy, Nova Scotians sent a clear message that a new course of action was required on forest harvesting. At the same time, any changes must consider the vital contribution the forest industry makes to Nova Scotia's economy. Any policy development in the forest management area must integrate economic, environmental and social values in order that a balanced solution can be reached.

Six directions were announced on December 1, 2010. Specific rules and guidelines to support these directions will continue to be developed as the natural resources strategy is approved and implemented. The six policy directions are:

- Reduce the proportion of wood harvested by clear cutting to no more than 50 per cent of all forest harvests over a five-year period. Commercial harvests will be registered with DNR and progress will be reported annually.
- Prohibit removing whole trees from the forest site to maintain woody debris, which is important for soil and biodiversity management and is consistent with the province's Renewable Electricity Plan. Christmas tree harvesting will be exempt.
- Public funds will not go toward herbicide spraying for forestry.
- Private land owners will not need management plans to harvest their woodlots for non-commercial energy use.
- Analyze options for a province wide annual allowable cut to limit total harvested amounts.
- Incorporate forest biomass harvest requirements in the Code of Forest Practice and, as stated in the Renewable Electricity Plan, revise regulations to ensure commercial users of biomass for energy or fuel production are registered buyers and subject to the same rules as the forest industry.

Changes to the way Nova Scotia's forests are managed will better protect them so they can continue to provide valuable environmental services, create and maintain good jobs in the forestry sector, and support a viable and competitive forestry industry in the province.

Planned activities for 2011-12 include:

- working with key stakeholders to determine the best ways to implement the six forestry policy directions.
- implementing legislative and/or regulatory changes consistent with the new policy directions.

- implementing data tracking and other systems to support the policy directions.
- developing technical support documents.
- providing education and outreach support.

4.3 Land Protection Target - *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*

The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (EGSPA), passed in April 2007, commits the government to achieving 21 specific environmental and economic goals. One of the goals is the legal protection of 12% of the total land mass of the Province by 2015. Nova Scotians expect their government to be sustainable, efficient, responsive and transparent. The government process that is underway is intended to address those expectations while meeting the land protection goal.

Ensuring that there is a provincial system of parks and protected areas will not only secure our present needs for a healthy lifestyle, but also those of future generations. Being able to explore and experience the diversity of the province and its natural and cultural heritage is something we all value and that adds to the overall well being of Nova Scotians. Natural areas are also important to individual communities as they can provide a refuge from the normal daily pressures and, in many cases, add to the identity of a community.

The resource sector in Nova Scotia has long been a mainstay of employment. Recent times have created some uncertainty for new development as the province struggles to support economic development and maintain environmental objectives. Resource development is being advanced as new technology is developed that provides more efficient use or the ability to utilize new resources. The delineation of the lands for the 12% EGSPA goal will provide an understanding to all involved in resource management on what and where opportunities exist. Opportunities for jobs that relate to the natural areas will also have a chance to evolve as management regimes will be defined that will provide guidance and direction.

The review of lands for contribution towards the 12% protection goal within EGSPA is a joint effort of DNR and NSE. Through the joint management and review process, efficiencies are being developed for sharing and providing information that will have a positive impact on internal resources. New products are also being developed that will improve communications and engagement with stakeholders and the public. The effort level expended in the planning and development will allow for more focus on management in the long term.

Planned activities for 2011-12 will include:

- supporting the government process to identify lands that will contribute towards the 12% protected goal of land under EGSPA
- providing management direction on Crown land that incorporates the 12% goal in the decision making process.

4.4 Park Infrastructure Renewal

The department has identified a need to address issues with infrastructure such as buildings or trails that are being used beyond normal operating spans, and limitations of facilities that no longer meet user needs.

DNR has received funding from the Canada - Nova Scotia Infrastructure Stimulus Fund in 2009 - 2011 to invest in upgrading services at several parks. This will result in parks receiving new and/or upgraded infrastructure, and some new products for park visitors to enjoy. The addition of new services in certain camping parks will better serve our residents and tourists into the future. Investment in infrastructure has an immediate impact on the local economy by securing jobs. Improvements within parks also provide long-term economic benefits to the local economy by maintaining or enhancing overall visitation and use of parks.

Planned activities for 2011-12 include:

- completing the redevelopment of Laurie Provincial Park, which will include a new central washroom and shower building, improved camping sites and the addition of new walk-in campsites along Grand Lake and the historic Shubenacadie Canal and Waterway.
- completing the development of activities at Whycocomagh Provincial Park that includes upgrading of some campsites and the introduction of water and electrical serviced campsites, as well as the newest camping experience: 'Yurts'. Yurts are a semi-permanent framed tent that allows users to experience the fun of camping without needing the tent.
- providing new water and electrical serviced sites in Mira River Park.
- completing trail improvements at Cape Chignecto and Graves Island Provincial Parks that are designed to make the trails more sustainable and to refresh and enhance the hiking experience.
- improving entry roads to many popular day use parks.

4.5 Land Asset Management

Nova Scotia has a small land base and needs to use its land resources wisely in order to optimize economic development while ensuring a healthy environment. While the government is the largest land owner in the province, the amount of land owned by the government in Nova Scotia is small in comparison to other provinces. This makes land use planning in relation to provincially owned assets vitally important to avoid conflicts such as resource development versus land protection, or campsite lease versus wind energy generation.

The department has identified a need for improved land and resource data linkages to facilitate decision making. DNR has developed a vision for modernizing land-related service delivery and improving land and resource asset management across government. A key element of the vision is the linkage and integration of land and resource related data held in various departments to improve government decision making.

Linked information would facilitate more effective and efficient planning and decision making related to land use management. Potential benefits would include:

- an improvement in the department's ability to identify and seek out economic activities and partners for the sustainable use of the land and resource asset;
- enhanced opportunities for reinvestment in, and growth of, the asset; and
- proactive marketing of products developed or made from resources on provincially owned lands, while balancing environmental and social objectives.

Funding has been received from the government's Change and Innovation Fund for a two-year pilot project to determine how best to utilize Crown land in a sustainable, planned and coordinated way. The pilot project will develop a proactive land use planning approach for the management of Crown land. The financial outcome is to generate more revenue from the province's land and resources. The department has also received five year TCA funding for the development of a technology solution which links land related data for provincial land assets.

Planned activities for 2011-12 include:

- documenting current processes and the regulatory framework used for the assessment, evaluation, review and approval of several key resources such as cranberry operations and onshore wind developments.
- developing an economic impact model for resources development on Crown land.

- documenting business processes and describing existing technology solutions that are being used to create, maintain and manage provincial land and resource related data.
- developing a future vision that uses technology to achieve the Land Asset Management goals. A high level future state roadmap will also be developed to describe key initiatives that would be undertaken to move from the current state to the future Land Asset Management vision.
- developing a high level future state roadmap to describe key initiatives that will be undertaken to move from the current state to the future Land Asset Management vision.

4.6 Community Lands Trust / *Community Easements Act*

The conservation and protection of Nova Scotia's land has gained importance over the past two decades, as communities have witnessed the loss of some of their most treasured properties to development or to foreign ownership. The province's relatively limited land base and its attractiveness to both local and offshore developers have created a sense of urgency among citizens to maintain their ability to access and use lands traditionally available for community purposes.

Nova Scotians have expressed a desire to acquire and make use of lands that they value. When privately held land holdings of community interest come on the market, individuals and communities may be interested in purchasing the land but they currently do not have a mechanism to do so. A new model is needed to incorporate community participation in the land purchase process and give a wider range of individuals and groups an opportunity to contribute to the process.

The department has been asked to develop a cost-effective way for communities to protect traditional land use and access by creating:

- a province-wide land purchase funding mechanism through the establishment of a Community Lands Trust, and
- legislation to allow the use of community easements such as working forest easements, agricultural easements and community access easements.

In September 2010, Executive Council approved consultations with the public on a Community Lands Trust Discussion Paper. Consultation meetings were held across the province, and community land use easements were identified as an approach to permanently limiting or preserving uses on land.

Planned activities for 2011-12 include:

- consulting with stakeholders specifically on Community Easement legislation (including other departments such as NS Environment, SNSMR, and Agriculture; NGO land trusts such as NS Nature Trust; and the Mi'kmaq community).
- reviewing other legislation such as the *Conservation Easements Act* to identify potential overlaps and conflicts.
- developing the framework for the establishment of a Community Lands Trust to provide funding for community groups to purchase land and easements commencing in fiscal year 2011-12.
- submitting a Request for Legislation regarding a new *Community Easements Act* during the 2011 fall sitting of the legislature.

4.7 Human / Wildlife Conflicts (Coyote Aggression Reduction)

The department is responsible for research, policy and the implementation of programs to mitigate the conflicts that arise between humans and wildlife. Conflicts between humans and wildlife are increasing across North America as human activities such as urbanization, agriculture, and outdoor recreation increase the interface between people, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Specific attention has been focused on designing a program to reduce the aggressive behaviour of coyotes in N.S. and to minimize the potential for conflicts between people and coyotes. This initiative operates within the broader program of human-wildlife conflict, the mandate of which is to minimize negative interactions between people and wildlife in this and other situations (i.e. agriculture).

The department has developed a four part plan to reduce coyote aggression and minimize potential conflicts. This plan includes:

- hiring a biologist to specifically focus on human-wildlife conflict (completed in 2010).
- providing enhanced education to people on how to safely enjoy the outdoors and avoid problems with coyotes (pending completion).
- training a core group of professional trappers to assist DNR in targeting aggressive coyotes (completed in 2010).
- providing a $20 pelt incentive for professional trappers to harvest coyotes (implemented in 2010).

The department supports and promotes healthy outdoor activities. People use the outdoors for a variety of healthy pursuits including nature appreciation, hunting, hiking and other activities. Outdoor recreation is an integral part of healthy living in Nova Scotia, and is also what visitors come to enjoy. To continue this tradition, it is essential for the government to pursue strategies that allow these activities to occur safely. The work to be undertaken by the department links to government's priorities by conducting research and providing education and training that will improve public safety in our communities.

Planned activities for 2011-12 include:

- implementing an enhanced education program to reduce unwanted coyote encounters by promoting safety techniques for outdoor recreation and property maintenance (implementation officially began in March and includes activities that will take place in early in 2011-12).
- participating with Parks Canada in joint research on coyote ecology and behaviour.
- continuing to target and remove high-risk aggressive animals.

5 Performance Measures

The set of performance measures presented in this section are, for the most part, the measures that have been included in previous departmental documents. The approval of the natural resources strategy will provide the department with specific information on public and stakeholder values and the future direction of natural resource management in the province. Once direction has been provided in the approved strategy, we anticipate developing a revised set of measures to track departmental performance in the areas Nova Scotians identified as being the most important and most relevant, and also to measure and report on the state of the natural resources covered by the strategy.

Mandate - Sound Natural Resources Management					
Outcome	**Measure**	**Base Year**	**Target**	**Trends**	**Strategic Actions**
Knowledgeable Teachers and Youth	Number of teachers, students and community group members receiving natural resources stewardship related training (thousands)	10.8 (2005-06)	13.0 (2011-12)	2006-07 - 11.3 2007-08 - 13.4 2008-09 - 12.8 2009-10 - 13.0	Provide in-service and professional development work shops for teachers. Promote educational programs. Work with Ducks Unlimited to provide a wetlands educational experience.
Effective Management of Resource Supply	Percentage of required value of silviculture on private and industrial lands completed [1]	140% (2006)	100% (2011)	2007 - 119% 2008 - 105% 2009 - 175%	Analyze wood supply requirements. Administer audit, monitoring and compliance programs. Operate the Registry of Wood Buyers
Species Diversity	Percentage of endangered and threatened species with recovery plans in place (as of March 31) [2]	74% (2006)	100% (2012)	2007 - 89% 2008 - 94% 2009 - 78% 2010 - 79%	Create Recovery Teams for listed species. Provide support and resources for the development of recovery plans. Work with partners on recovery plans.
Conservation of Ecosystem Function	Percentage compliance with *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations* under the *Forests Act* [3]	29% (2004-05)	75% (2011-12)	2005-06 - no survey 2006-07 - no survey 2007-08 - 26% 2008-09 - no survey 2009-10 - no survey	Promote requirements of regulations and provide educational materials. Monitor compliance with regulations.

1 This measure is calculated on a calendar year basis. Historical data is provided in DNR's accountability reports, which are available electronically on the DNR website at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/thedepartment/businessplan/default.asp.

2 The *Endangered Species Act* requires that recovery plans must be in place one year after listing for endangered species and two years after listing for threatened species. Historic data is provided in DNR's accountability reports, which are available electronically on the DNR website at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/thedepartment/businessplan/default.asp.

3 This measure is calculated based on the results of intensive monitoring of forest harvesting sites which takes place at three-year intervals. The most recent monitoring was in 2007-08. Inspections occur each year as required.

Mandate - Sound Natural Resources Management					
Outcome	**Measure**	**Base Year**	**Target**	**Trends**	**Strategic Actions**
Safe Staff and Workplaces	Percent of employees who somewhat agree or strongly agree that the department creates a safe work environment [4]	78% (2004)	89% (2013)	2005 - no survey 2006 - no survey 2007 - 89% 2008 - no survey 2009 - 88% 2010 - no survey	Work to identify potential problem areas and continue to promote a safe work culture.
Knowledgeable Staff	Percent of employees who somewhat agree or strongly agree that they have access to training opportunities [5]	74% (2004)	86% (2013)	2005 - no survey 2006 - no survey 2007 - 86% 2008 - no survey 2009 - 83% 2010 - no survey	Maintain training and staffing plans for each branch.

[4] All permanent civil servants were included in an employee survey conducted by the Public Service Commission in February 2004. Another survey was undertaken in March 2007 and then in two year intervals. The ultimate target is being set for 2013 and will be based on survey expected to be conducted late in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

[5] See previous footnote.

6 Budget Context

The following table provides budget information for the department for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Department of Natural Resources - Budget Context			
	2010-11 Estimate	**2010-11 Forecast**	**2011-12 Estimate**
Programs and Services	**$thousands**	**$thousands**	**$thousands**
Senior Management	444	361	516
Corporate Services Unit [6]	4,510	3,799	4,625
Renewable Resources	13,963	15,100	16,114
Mineral Resources	3,783	3,764	3,633
Regional Services	64,678	61,207	59,886
Planning Secretariat	4,764	4,746	4,704
Land Services	3,299	3,281	3,367
Total - Departmental Expenses	95,441	92,258	92,845
Gross Expenses	96,121	94,956	93,526
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	1,953	2,180	1,981
Ordinary Recoveries	3,520	3,993	20
TCA Purchase Requirements	10,040	9,772	6,800
Provincially Funded Staff (# of FTE)	844	758	823

[6] The Corporate Services Unit figures include the cost of financial and information technology services provided to a number of other departments and agencies.